

TV Licences and Self Catering Properties

Hotel and Mobile Units Television Licence

All tourist accommodation – including self-catering properties – are usually eligible for the 'Hotel and Mobile Units Television Licence' (commonly known as a 'hotel licence').

This licence, which covers all types of accommodation from hotels through to self-catering units and tents, is needed because you are benefiting financially from providing copyright material to your guests.

The amount that you pay for a hotel licence is based on the number of rooms or units you have. The current rates (as at 10th April 2017) are:

- £145 for properties with up to 15 rooms that have televisions installed
- £145, plus £145.50 for each additional five rooms (or part thereof) for properties with more than 15 rooms



Ryan's is a trading name of Ryan Insurance Group Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Registered in England No. 01217489
Registered Office Crane Hall, London Road, Ipswich IP2 0AL

Know the Regulations

However, the regulations covering TV licencing state that a hotel licence covers one or more units of guest accommodation 'on the same site' or 'within the same premises'. While this is easily understandable when related to hotels, guesthouses and B&Bs, there are some grey areas in the interpretation of the regulations when it comes to self-catering properties or accommodation such as static caravans or yurts.

For example, if you own a number of different self-catering cottages in different locations, you will need a separate licence for each property as they are not 'on the same site'. Units located on land with separate titles can also be deemed not to be 'on the same site' even if the land is contiguous. Similarly, land that is separated by a public thoroughfare such as a road or even a footpath can also be deemed to be not 'on the same site'.

There is also some ambiguity regarding places being 'within the same premises' where different types of accommodation are available on the same piece of land. For example, if you have a B&B with four rooms and two yurts in the grounds, these could be deemed to be two separate operations and each operation would need it's own licence.

A reasonable rule of thumb in this situation is that if you simply allocate a unit to a guest when they arrive, the more likely it is that the premises will be covered by a single hotel licence.

However, if the accommodation types you provide are not interchangeable (i.e., the guest books a particular type), the more likely it is that you will need a separate licence for each one or each grouping of units.

It is always advisable to contact TV Licensing directly to check that you have the right licence for the specific circumstances of your business.

- Note: Remember, depending on the circumstances, you may also need a PRS for music licence, PPL licence or a Filmbank licence (if you also provide DVDs for guest use). For more information on licensing, [click here](#).

Source: www.visitbritain.org